California's Forest and Range Assessment Steering Committee

FRASC Water Resources Meeting (7-11-2013)
Panelist Questions

Environmental Stressors

1) What stressors are most likely to threaten California's watersheds and where are they located (e.g., sediment and water temperature-North Coast, heavy metals-southern CA, etc.)? Do we need to reconsider current watershed protection approaches or management approaches?

Headwater Source Areas

2) Headwater regions provide a reliable source of high quality drinking water throughout California. Are there specific data and research needs that are not currently being addressed to better understand the hydrology of these systems and how land management practices effect stewardship? Can management actions influence the timing and release of water in these headwater regions?

Research and Monitoring

3) What research and/or monitoring do you see as most important for the state to evaluate watershed health and track water resources? Also, discuss any considerations that should be given to regional, state, and national reporting.

Prioritizing Watershed Restoration & Protection

4) What criteria or evaluation procedures should the state develop to better prioritize restoration or watershed protection needs? Are there specific resources that are of greatest importance (e.g., listed anadromous salmonids, domestic water sources, mountain meadows, riparian forests…)? Are there priority watersheds that should be a focus for investment?

Watershed Ecology and Ecosystem Services

5) California is a fire prone landscape, but fire has been removed from natural ecological cycles. How can we re-integrate fire into watershed management to create forests that are fire resilient while also enhancing the full suite of ecosystem services watersheds provide?

Climate Change

6) Climate change has the potential to greatly influence water resources across California. How can the State use forest management to prepare for climate change, particularly related to water quantity/storage?